

Commissioners,

The recent actions of Sinclair broadcasting, with its decision to force its affiliates to broadcast a politically-slanted and slanderous documentary on Senator John Kerry 2 weeks before the presidential election provide clear evidence of how media consolidation has impaired stations ability to serve local audiences. If a corporate owner in Maryland can dictate the presentation of political content of this nature to stations from Maine to California, then it could presumably instruct them not to show other programming of interest to a local community, but which went against the political outlook of the owners. This demonstrates a clear weakness with the FCC's recent decision to allow single owners to buy more broadcast stations, as it places control over the public airways in fewer and fewer hands, making it easier for a handful of powerful interests to distort or hijack political discussion in our country. And if this does not do local audiences a disservice, a do not know what does. Thank you for time.